"Still in shock." Abortion defenders, foes stunned by leak

EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS and CLAIRE GALOFARO Associated Press

clinic was flying home from a conference for abortion providers Monday night when a leaked Supreme Court draft opinion began ricocheting around the world.

As Dalton Johnson read it, he was struck by the bluntness of the language that would end the constitutional right to an abortion, shuttering clinics in about half of American states, including his.

"I'm still in shock," Johnson said Tuesday.

People on both sides of the abortion divide have been expecting the Supreme Court this summer to reverse the landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade case that legalized abortion nationwide. But many said the draft opinion was nevertheless stunning, forcing them to reckon with the reality the nation is likely to enter soon.

"I can't stop crying," said an elated Mississippi state Rep. Becky Currie, who sponsored the 2018 law that is

By REBECCA SANTANA, the basis for the Supreme Court case. "I am not quite sure I have the words to express how I feel right now, The owner of an Alabama but God has had his hands on that bill since the begin-

> The leaked draft, published late Monday by Politico, is a 98-page opinion in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, which challenged the constitutionality of the Mississippi bill that banned abortion after 15 weeks. If the decision stands as written, it would also overturn Planned Parenthood v. Casey, a 1992 decision that protected abortion services even though it allowed states to add some limitations.

was egregiously wrong from the start," the draft opinion states. It was signed by Justice Samuel Alito, a member of the court's 6-3 conservative majority. According to Politico, four other justices — Clarence Thomas, Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett — have agreed with the opinion.

The draft opinion was written in February and the language could change before the court issues its final



Demonstrators protest outside of the U.S. Supreme Court Tuesday, May 3, 2022 in Washington. **Associated Press**

ruling. As written, it would give states the power to decide the legality of abortion. Roughly half, largely in the South and Midwest, are likely to quickly ban abortion.

Abortion clinics in those states opened Tuesday morning, still seeing patients but uncertain about the future.

The daily rituals unfolded as they always do: protesters screamed at people walking inside, clinic escorts tried to shield them and hustle them in the doors.

"Please overturn Roe v. Wade," said Barbara Beavers, who stood outside the clinic in Jackson, Mississippi, on Tuesday, trying to persuade people against going inside. "Have mercy on our unborn children. We're destroving our future, killing our babies."

Jean Folsom stopped by the clinic on her way to work, to thank the volunteers who help pregnant people pass protesters like Beavers.

Continued on Page 2







"Still in shock." Abortion defenders, foes stunned by leak

Continued from Front

"I really appreciate their efforts, and obviously based on the news last night, I'm worried that this is one of the last times I'll see them," said Folsom. She and her family eat breakfast every Saturday at a coffee shop near the clinic, and always felt grateful for the volunteers willing to help people in a state where opposition to abortion is strong.

Folsom said she felt devastated when she read the news Monday night.

"I kind of can't believe that I live in a country where things seem to be moving backwards," she said.

Inside clinics, the news prompted frantic phone calls. People were confused about whether abortion remains legal, and for how long.

"I immediately felt sick to my stomach," said Tammi Kromenaker, who owns a clinic in Fargo, North Dakota. "And 20 million thoughts started going through my head about what can we do? What does my staff need to hear? What do our



Demonstrators protest outside of the U.S. Supreme Court Tuesday, May 3, 2022 in Washington.

Associated Press

patients need to hear?"
She posted a notice on the website of the clinics: "If you have an appointment at Red River Women's Clinic, your appointment is safe."
Katie Quinonez rushed off a plane Tuesday morning and drove straight to the clinic she runs in Charleston, West Virginia. She'd also been attending the

National Abortion Federation Conference when the news broke Monday night and she barely slept, she said. She was having night-mares about the Supreme Court.

She was terrified that her patients would misunderstand the news and think that abortion was immediately outlawed. "Abortion is still legal," the clinic posted on social media, "but that could change as soon as next month."

She had been bracing for this news.

"But there was still this visceral reaction, this very devastating feeling," Quinonez said.

At Johnson's clinic in Huntsville, the phone was ringing more than usual. Women called to ask whether they can still get an abortion. Johnson said his first call of the morning was from a woman who had an abortion scheduled for Friday and wanted to come in Tuesday.

The staff held a meeting, and Johnson says he asked them to focus on the women who are still coming for abortions who need their help. The opinion was just a draft, he told them, and cautioned that it wasn't the final decision.

Some anti-abortion activists were skeptical that the draft would become reality, fixating instead on the fact that it was leaked the press and whether that implied political posturing.

"I'm hopeful," said Dennis Westover, a 72-year-old retired electrical engineer, a regular protester outside the clinic in Charleston, West Virginia. But he was suspicious that someone leaked it as ammunition in the country's intractable culture wars.

"When our Supreme Court stuff starts to be leaked, it's egregious," he said. "One side or the other did it for a political motive to stir up some kind of stink."

In Louisville, Kentucky, protester Angela Minter said she prayed the draft opinion will be the final one.

"I'm excited today," Minter said. "I believe it's an indication of what's to come." Minter thinks that's God answering her prayers: she's been coming to the clinic most mornings since 2004. Patients tried to dodge her and the other protesters screaming outside. "Don't murder your baby," one man shouted at a young woman. Clinic escorts in orange vests helped her into the building.

The Louisville clinic was closed for a week last month after the legislature banned abortion, until a court intervened. But if Roe falls, it will likely be shuttered again.

"I do anticipate a day with no abortion clinics in Kentucky," said Meg Stern, who runs the Kentucky Health Justice Network and escorts at the clinic. Abortion access will now be an issue of privilege: people with the means to travel will be able to end their pregnancies.

For months now, the nation has had a glimpse of what that looks like. Texas banned abortion after six weeks in September. Planned Parenthood clinics in the surrounding states saw a 2,500% increase in patients, said Dr. Iman Alsaden, medical director for Planned Parenthood Great Plains.

Some groups are working to try to circumvent the law the best they can: mobile abortion units, fundraising for travel assistance, mailorder medications. One online women's health provider reported a significant spike in requests for emergency contraception Tues-Democrat-leaning day. states like New York, California and Illinois are rushing to pass laws to protect abortion access, both for their residents and people coming from out of state.





D.C. reaches \$750K settlement in Trump inaugural lawsuit

By MICHAEL BALSAMO **Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — For-President Donald Trump's businesses and inaugural committee have reached a deal to pay Washington, D.C., \$750,000 to resolve a lawsuit that alleaed the committee overpaid for events at his hotel and enriched the former president's family in the process, according to the District of Columbia's attorney general.

Attorney General Karl Racine announced the settlement agreement in the case against the Presidential Inaugural Committee, the Trump Organization and the Trump International Hotel in Washington in a tweet on Tuesday. The document had not yet been signed by a judge.

The agreement says the case is being resolved "to avoid the cost, burden, and risks of further litigation" and that the organizations "dispute these

allegations on numerous grounds and deny having engaged in any wrongdoing or unlawful conduct."

As part of the agreement, the defendants will pay the District of Columbia a total of \$750,000, which will be used to benefit three nonprofit organizations, the settlement paperwork says. "We're resolving our lawsuit and sending the message that if you violate DC nonprofit law—no matter how powerful you are you'll pay," Racine said in a tweet.

In a statement, Trump blasted Racine and noted that the settlement includes no admission of guilt or liability. "As crime rates are soaring in our Nation's Capital, it is necessary that the Attorney General focus on those issues rather than a further leg of the greatest Witch-Hunt in political history," Trump said. "This was yet another example of weaponizing Law Enforcement against the Republican Party and, in particular, the former President of the United States."

Racine has said the committee misused nonprofit funds and coordinated with the hotel's management and members of the Trump family to arrange the events. He said one of the event's planners raised concerns about pricing with Trump, the president's daughter Ivanka Trump and Rick Gates, a top campaign official at the time.

The committee has maintained that its finances were independently audited, and that all money was spent in accordance with the law. The committee raised an unprecedented \$107 million to host events



A view of The Trump International Hotel is seen, March 4, 2021, in Washington.

Associated Press

celebrating Trump's inauguration in January 2017. But the committee's spending has drawn mounting scrutiny.

Gates, a former Trump campaign aide who cooperated in the special counsel's Russia investigation, personally managed discussions with the hotel

about using the space, including ballrooms and meeting rooms, the attorney general's office has said. In one instance, Gates contacted Ivanka Trump and told her that he was "a bit worried about the optics" of the committee paying such a high fee, Racine said.

Lawmakers in 19 states want legal refuge for trans youth

HOLLY RAMER Associated Press

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) -Democratic lawmakers in more than a dozen states are following California's lead in seeking to offer legal refuge to displaced transgender youth their families.

The coordinated effort being announced Tuesday by the LGBTQ Victory Institute and other advocates comes in response to recent actions taken in conservative states.

In Texas, for example, Gov. Gregg Abbott has directed state agencies to consider placing transgender children in foster care, though a judge has temporarily blocked such investiga- they allowed gender-aftions.

And multiple states have It also would make artransgender youth.

Wiener said he immediately began hearing from enforcement.



State Sen. Scott Wiener, D-San Francisco, discusses proposed measure to provide legal refuge to displaced transgender youth and their families during a news conference in Sacramento, Calif., March 17, 2022.

Associated Press

other states after coming forward with his bill, which would reject any out-ofstate court judgments removing children from their parents' custody because firming health care.

approved measures pro- rest warrants based on alhibiting gender-affirming leged violation of another health care treatments for state's law against receiving such care the lowest priority for California law



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Report: About 6M adults identify as Afro Latino in the U.S.

By CHEYANNE MUMPHREY and ANITA SNOW Associated Press

About 6 million adults in the United States identify as Afro Latino, a distinction with deep roots in colonial Latin America, according to a new report by Pew Research Center. That's about 2% of the adult U.S. population and 12% of the country's adult Latino population.

The center released its latest report on Afro Latino identity Monday, revealing the multiple dimensions of Latino identity.

Afro Latinos' life experiences are shaped by factors including race and skin tone in ways that differ from other Hispanics. Most but not all identify as Hispanic or Latino, the survey found. Being Afro Latino is "distinct and exists along a person's racial identity, national origin and includes or is tied to culture, ancestry and maybe also physical features," said researcher and report author Ana Gonzalez-Barrera. "But it is much more than just a label and much more than just a race."

The report's results reflect Latin America's long colonial history, during which mixing occurred among Indigenous Americans, white Europeans, Asians and enslaved people from Africa. Melissa Dunmore, 32, a writer and poet living in Phoenix, said she embraces both her father's African and Cherokee roots and



A group calling for the end of deportations marches in the Dominican Day Parade, Sunday, Aug. 13, 2017, in New York. - A group calling for the end of deportations marches in the Dominican Day Parade, Sunday, Aug. 13, 2017, in New York.

Associated Press

the Puerto Rican ancestry from her mother's side.

"I identify mostly as Black, but I also feel close to the island," said Dunmore, who was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, but moved with her family to Arizona as a high school student after 9/11. She was excited to discover a restaurant near her Southwest home that serves mofongo, a traditional Puerto Rican dish made with fried plantains

"Outside of class, I grew up mostly speaking Spanish after school and during the summer with my maternal grandparents," said Dunmore. Now she speaks Spanish to her 5-month-old baby girl, Flora. "I want her to have that as well."

A previous survey published in 2016 showed about one-quarter of all U.S. Latinos self-identify as Afro Latino, Afro Caribbean or of African descent with roots in Latin America. But Gonzalez-Barrera said the results cannot be compared to the more recent report because the previous survey was conducted over the phone, with an interviewer, and the questions were different.

Well-known Afro Latinos in the U.S. include actress Rosario Dawson, rapper Cardi B and former professional baseball player David Ortiz, a Dominican American nicknamed "Big Papi."

Many Hispanic people identify themselves based on their ancestral countries of origin, their Indigenous roots or racial background. The survey asked adults whether they self-identify as Afro Latino separate from other questions on race or ethnicity.

As a result, the number also varies from U.S. Census Bureau sources, which count Afro Latino as anyone who identifies as Hispanic and Black in a two-step race question. The 2020 census show there are 1.2 million people of all ages that

identify as such, much lower than the 6 million estimated in the latest center report.

"The thing to consider here is that Afro Latino identity transcends racial identity and cannot be captured by a checkbox-type of question where you mark your ethnicity," said Gonzalez-Barrera, who has studied Latinos for about 15 years and has worked with Pew Research Center for about 12 years. She identifies as Mexican American and Latina.

The survey asked a censusstyle question about race to display the complexity of identity. Twenty-eight percent of all Afro Latino people selected white as their race, 25% selected Black and 23% selected "some other race." According to the report, 59% of Afro Latino people who did not identify as Hispanic selected Black as their race, compared to the 17% who did identify as Hispanic.

A March 2021 Pew Research Center survey of Latino adults said Afro Latino adults who identify as Hispanic were more likely to say they would be seen as multiracial, mixed race or Black when walking past them on the street, a concept known as street race. It also said Afro Latino adults who identify as Hispanic were more likely to say their skin color is darker than other Hispanic adults.



City residents wait in a line extending around the block to receive free at-home rapid COVID-19 test kits in Philadelphia, Monday, Dec. 20, 2021.

Associated Press

CDC restates recommendation for masks on planes, trains

By MIKE STOBBE
AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. health officials on Tuesday restated their recommendation that Americans wear masks on planes, trains and buses, despite a court ruling last month that struck down a national mask mandate on public transportation.

Americans age 2 and older should wear a well-fitting masks while on public transportation, including in airports and train stations, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended, citing the current spread of coronavirus and projections of future CO-VID-19 trends.

For months, the Transportation Security Administration had been enforcing a requirement that passengers and workers wear masks.

The government had repeatedly extended the mandate, and the latest one had been set to expire May 3. But a federal judge in Florida struck down the rule on April 18. The same day, the TSA said it would no longer enforce the mandate.

The CDC asked the Justice Department to appeal the decision, which the department did. On Tuesday, CDC officials declined to comment on the status of the appeal. DOJ officials did not immediately respond to a request for information.



Slovakia, Hungary won't back EU sanctions on Russian energy

By K. JANICEK, J. SPIKE and D. GATOPOULOS **Associated Press**

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — Slovakia and Hungary said Tuesday that they will not support sanctions against Russian energy that the European Union is preparing over the war in Ukraine, saying they are too reliant on those supplies and there are no immediate alterna-

The EU's executive branch, the European Commission, has drafted new proposals for sanctions, which could include a phased-in embargo on Russian oil. The 27 member countries are likely to start discussing them Wednesday, but it could be several days before the measures take effect.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell tweeted that the commission wants to hit more banks, target those accused of spreading disinformation about the war, and "tackle oil imports." It's not clear whether Slovakia and Hungary would receive exemptions.

Slovak Economy Minister Richard Sulik said the country's sole refiner, Slovnaft, cannot immediately switch from Russian crude to another kind of oil. Changing the technology would take several years, Sulik said.

"So, we will insist on the exemption, for sure," Sulik told reporters. Slovakia is almost fully dependent on Russian oil it receives through the Soviet-era Druzhba pipeline. Hungary is also heavily reliant, though Germany, another major energy importer, said it could cope if the EU banned Russian oil, with officials still noting that "it is a heavy load to bear." Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto said the country will not vote for any sanctions "that will make the transport of natural gas or oil from Russia to Hungary impossible."

Hungary's energy supply cannot be endangered because no one can expect us to allow the price of the war (in Ukraine) to be paid by Hungarians," Szijjarto said Tuesday in Kazakhstan. "It is currently



Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto attends a press conference after talks with his Serbian counterpart Nikola Selakovic, in Belgrade, Serbia, Monday, Feb. 7, 2022.

Associated Press

androupolis. An LNG import terminal near the port city is due to start operation next year. LNG that arrives by ship is becoming increasingly important as EU countries look to move away from Russian supplies. Russia last week cut off natural gas to Bulgaria and Poland over a demand to guarantee payment in rubles, in an escalating dispute triggered by the invasion of

"This is why this new LNG terminal is so timely and so important. It's a geopolitical investment and this is a geopolitical moment," Michel said.

"It reflects what we need to do more of, because it will provide security of supply to Greece, to Bulgaria, North Macedonia, Serbia and other countries in the region. And this is extremely important."

North Macedonia and non-NATO member Serbia at the Greek port of Alex-



physically impossible for Hungary and its economy to function without Russian oil." Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban has developed a reputation as Putin's closest ally in the EU and pursued deep diplomatic and economic ties with Moscow. Orban has deepened dependence on Russian fossil fuels, noting that 85% of Hungary's gas and more than 60% of its oil comes from Russia.

disagreement Despite among EU members on new energy sanctions, European Council President Charles Michel vowed to "break the Russian war machine" by steering countries on the continent away from Russia's natural gas supplies.

The bloc is racing to secure alternative supplies to Russian energy, placing priority on global LNG imports from countries that include major producers like Algeria, Qatar and the United

That includes liquefied natural gas facilities being built in northern Greece, which Michel and the leaders of four Balkan countries toured Tuesday.

"We are also sanction-"The point is simple, that ing Russia to put financial, economic and political pressure on the Kremlin because our goal is simple: We must break the Russian war machine," Michel said. He met Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis and the leaders of Bulgaria,



Yazidis, displaced again, fear more strife in Iraqi homeland

By RASHID YAHYA and **SAMYA KULLAB Associated Press**

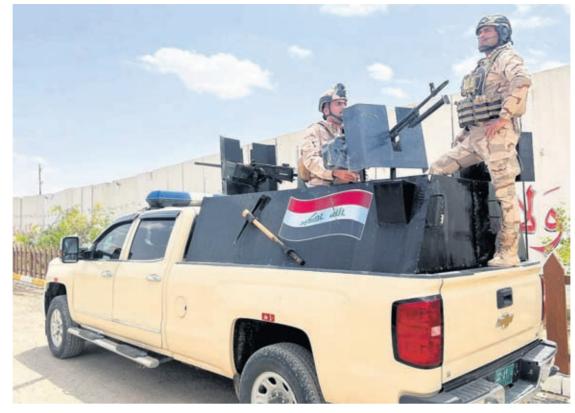
ZAKHO, **Iraq (AP)** — Iraqis in a northern town still traumatized by memories of the Islamic State group feared more violence Tuesday after hostilities between the military and a local militia erupted, people internally displaced by the fighting said.

Tensions reached a fever pitch when Iraq's military launched an offensive in Sinjar district Sunday to clear out armed elements of the YBS, a local militia comprised largely of minority Yazidis.

The YBS has ties to the insurgent Kurdistan Worker's Party, or PKK, a separatist movement banned in Tur-

The heavy fighting prompted over 3,000 people, most of them Yazidis, to flee toward the Kurdish-run north. It wasn't clear if there were any dead or wounded in the fighting: Iraqi officials have released no figures and have not commented on casualties.

Fighting ceased Tuesday and the Iraqi army said it had re-established control of Sinjar. But the violence and subsequent displacement dealt a blow to Bagh-



Iraqi soldiers stand on a truck ion a base in Sinjar, Iraq, Tuesday, May 3, 2022.

Associated Press

dad's efforts to encourage more Yazidis to return to their ancestral homeland after years of war.

An agreement was brokered by the United Nations in October 2020 between Baahdad and the Kurdishrun government to implement order in the area. Under that agreement, the federal police are the sole state authority.

The accord has not proven successful. Critics have said this is because it did not consult powerful local forces in Sinjar or even Yazidi leaders. Local residents, who also include Arab Sunnis, are also deeply divided. Lt. Gen. Abdul-Amir al-Shammari, deputy commander of Iraq's Joint Operations Command, told a news conference in Sinjar that Iraqi forces have imposed security and law and order and have opened all the roads in the district.

"The goal of these operations was to impose the (rule of) law and security to secure a safe environment so that we can rebuild Sinjar and return the displaced."

But Yazidis, many displaced now for a second time, are reluctant to return.

Most of the displaced fled north to the Kurdish-run region where they were distributed across different camps. Many first fled in 2014 after IS's brutal onslaught and returned in recent years to rebuild their homes. The memories are still fresh in Sewe's mind. His was among the dozens of families who made their way to the Chemishko camp in Zakho on Monday. He only gave The Associated Press his first name.

The YBS was created in 2014 with assistance from the PKK. They proved instrumental in driving out IS elements from the area after the collapse of the Iraqi army. The YBS has since remained a powerful local force in the area, citing deep mistrust of the federal government forces deployed to protect the area. The Iraqi army said the aim of the offensive has been to reassert state authority in response to the YBS erectina checkpoints and preventing citizens from returning to their homes.

But most residents expect more violence.

"When we went back to our home we found it was impossible to live there," said Rashid Barakat, now displaced in the Chemishko camp. "The army was attacking (the YBS) and the (YBS) was hitting them back, and we were stuck in between."

Sri Lanka opposition declares no confidence in government

By KRISHAN FRANCIS **Associated Press** COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)

position party on Tuesday issued a no-confidence declaration aiming at oust-Sri Lanka's main op- ing Prime Minister Mahinda



Prof. Kumari Jayawardena, a leading Sri Lankan academic and feminism activist holds a placard demanding political and economic stability in the country near the ongoing protest site as the Chinese funded sea reclamation Port City project is seen in the background in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Monday, May 2, 2022. **Associated Press**

Rajapaksa and his Cabinet and blaming them of failing in their constitutional duty to provide a decent living standards amid the island nation's worst economic crisis in memory.

A group from United People's Force party, led by leader Sajith Premadasa, delivered the motion demanding the no-confident parliamentary vote to Parliament Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena.

The move came amid countrywide protests demanding the resignation of Rajapaksa and his younger brother, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who the demonstrators hold responsible for the economic cri-

A majority vote in the fidence motion targeting

225-member Parliament would be needed to remove Rajapaksa and the Cabinet from power. The United People's Force can only count on 54 votes but hopes to win votes from smaller opposition parties and defections from the ruling Sri Lanka People's Front party. The ruling party had nearly 150 votes but that strength has declined amid the economic crisis and defections in a no-confidence vote are possible.

A decision on when to hold the no-confidence vote is expected to happen after members of Parliament start meeting on Wednes-

The United People's Force also delivered a no-conthe president but it would not force him to leave office even a majority of lawmakers vote against him.

Sri Lanka is on the brink of bankruptcy after the country's recent announcement to suspend payments on its foreign loans. The country faces repayments of \$7 billion of foreign loans this year of the \$ 25 billion it is scheduled to pay by 2026. Sri Lanka has less than than \$ 1 billion in foreign reserves. The foreign currency crisis has limited imports and caused severe shortages of essential goods like fuel, cooking gas, medicine and food. People stand in long lines for hours to buy what they can and many return home with little, if any, of what they were seeking.



Rights groups criticize El Salvador's mass gang roundups

SAN SALVADOR. El Salvador (AP) — Human rights groups on Monday criticized the massive arrests of suspected gang members in El Salvador..

The roundups, begun in late March after a spike in homicides, have resulted in the arrest of over 22,000 presumed gang members. But as of May 1, only 10,885 of them have been ordered held pending trial. The government has decreed a state of emergency that extends to 15 days the time that someone can be held without charges.

Rights groups have criticized the measures, saying arrests are often arbitrary, based on a person's appearance or where they live. Police have also reported being forced to meet arrest quotas.

In late April, El Salvador's congress voted to grant a request by President Nayib Bukele to extend the antigang emergency decree for another 30 days.

The original 30-day state of emergency restricts the right to gather, to be informed of rights and have



A soldier guards the perimeter of a crime scene in a small market, Sunday, March 27, 2022, in San Salvador, El Salvador.

Associated Press

access to a lawyer.

"A growing amount of evidence indicate that Salvadoran authorities have committed serious human rights violations since the emergency decree was approved" on March 27, according to a report by Human Rights Watch and the Cristosal Foundation.

The two groups interviewed 43 victims, relatives or law-

vers and reviewed arrest records. "We have found evidence of arbitrary detentions of innocent people, who have in some cases been disappeared for short periods of time, as well as alarming cases of deaths while in custody," said Tamara Taraciuk Broner, the acting Americas director for Human Rights Watch. The two groups documented two cases where people died in policy custody, and found press reports of three other cases.

And the decree has almost certainly added to dangerous overcrowding in Salvadoran prisons, which were already at 136% of capacity in December. The government has pledged to build more prisons, but that will take time.

The emergency decree came after a spate of homicides in late March, when gangs were blamed for 62 killings in a single weekend, a level of violence the country of 6.5 million people has not seen in years. Bukele has also established a raft of other measures. Among other things, they lengthened sentences, reduced the age of criminal responsibility to 12.

El Salvador's congress has authorized prison sentences of 10 to 15 years for news media that reproduce or disseminate messages from the gangs, alarming press freedom groups.

Gang members held at Salvadoran prisons have been put on reduced food rations, denied mattresses and frog-marched around. Bukele has unashamedly filled his social media platforms with photos of handcuffed and bloodied gang members.

At the same time, he has lashed out at human rights organizations and international agencies critical of some measures.

Mexico relocates migrant camp; Haitians appear at border

By MARÍA VERZA **Associated Press**

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexican authorities said Tuesday they have relocated a migrant camp that sprung up in a park in the border city of Reynosa, moving about 2,000 people from Central American

Haiti to a shelter in the city, across the border from McAllen, Texas.

The camp of migrants mainly from Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Haiti sprung up after U.S. officials, citing the pandemic, invoked a a health rule that denies migrants a chance

food services. But on Monday, people in another border city, Nuevo Laredo, said hundreds of migrants, mainly Haitians, have streamed into the city, which is across the border from Laredo, Texas The rush apparently started after the U.S. began processing some asylum seekers there.

midnight Monday to the

to seek asylum.

Bishop Enrique Sánchez Martínez said migrants started streaming into Nuevo Laredo in late April, though the city isn't usually popular among migrants, in part because it is dominated by the violent Northeast drug cartel. 🔲



Migrants sleep under a gazebo at a park in Reynosa, Mexico, March 27, 2021.

Associated Press



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How it all began

It was 1938 when Mr. Eric Ponson started his journey at General Store. Ponson did not hesitate and decided to buy General Store. Buying a store and thus going from employee to owner of a business with a debt of 11.000 guilders was not an easy task.

As the saying goes: "Behind every successful man, is a strong woman". In the case of Ponson, this was no different. As General Store progressed and slowly became successful, Mrs. Irene Ponson, came in to assist her husband. Irene Ponson is a visionary, she knew exactly where and how to invest and within a short amount of time in 1970, General Store moved to a better location at the Steenweg. This aloud for a lot more merchandize, products and employees. Supply and demand was as such, that General Store became the number 1 electrical 739 [PAbusiness. Business kept going so well that the location at the Steenweg became too small and was moved later to Dakota Shopping Paradise and later to Pedro GallegoStraat. With this move, an expansion was decided upon and an electronics store in Savaneta was opened. General Store still being very successful was ready for more growth.

Ricky, Kenneth, Corine and Frans are the fruits of this marriage. Kenneth and Frans however, decided to further develop their father's legacy and continued with their mother's dream to expand the business. An expansion not in square feet only, but in merchandize as well. A great opportunity presented itself when the Ponson family was able to buy a piece of property across from the airport. In 2007 the Ponson family moved into their brand new and huge building. Ponson's General Store now had an electrical department, as housewares department, a paint department and a hardware department.

After a successful opening and expansion, Kenneth and Frans who inherited their mothers vision, decided that General Store was ready for yet another expansion. With the support of Mr. Tom Barfell and management of Do it Best in the States, the con-



struction of Do it Center commenced.

Fast forward to today. A Do it Center in Aruba, with more than 50.000 top of the line items for interior as well exterior use, building materials, STO products and a top of the line grocery store. Perseverance, responsibility, vision and the courage to invest have made Ponson's General Store as successful as it is today.

Super Do It Center Shaba & Groceries

Located in Shaba, Noord. This is the last sibling of the Do It Center family. Here you will be able to find anything you are looking for. The building is divided into several departments from home to hardware to groceries. Everything under one roof.

Groceries? Visit the fully stocked supermarket with fresh fruits and vegetables and high class meat selections. Highly known products and brands are here for you to grab. Every week Do It Center Groceries offers you great discount on selected items. Weekly specials are very popular and a perfect chance for you to buy your favorite products at a reduced price.

Need a home makeover? Do not skip the furniture department "Leenbakker". Here, you will find a divine collection of European furniture, worldwide known for their modern and stylish features for your bedroom, bathroom, living room or kitchen. For your garden they have a wide selection of durable furniture specially made for our tropical climate. Take a walk around and find some treasures. Find the perfect accessory for your house, fitted for your personality and style. Modern, elegant, retro industrial, whatever your style is you will definitely find something for your personal taste.

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Yom Hashoa: Memorial and remembrance of the Holocaust

Wednesday April 27th the Jewish Community of Aruba, Beth Israel Synagogue commemorated the six million Jews slaughtered during the Holocaust. This day is called Yom Hashoah in Hebrew.

The evening started with

of the Congregation and Baruch Zeilicovich, Spiri-Edgard Vrolijk, the Representative of the Netherlands in Aruba, Mr. David Abrahams and the Honorary Consul of Israel to Aruba, Mrs. Martha Lichtenstein were present.

a service, where members During the service Rabbi to erase an entire nation

guests like the President tual Leader of Beth Israel of Parliament of Aruba, Mr. shared his thoughts around this day: "The word Holocaust is today the way we name the massacre of the Jews by the Nazis, and it will stay that way. But what really happened is called a Genocide: the intend



Cadets Royal Military Academy roll up their sleeves during exercise in Aruba

From Sunday, May 8 to Saturday, May 14, 2022, approximately twenty cadets from the Royal Military Academy (KMA) in Breda (The Netherlands) will complete their officer training in Aruba with exercise 'Alumno to Suda'.

After the summer, the cadets will start their Specialization Training as final preparations for their first officer positions within the various arms and service sections of the Royal Netherlands Army.

By holding the exercise in Aruba, the aspiring officers experience what it is like to operate in a different environment, context and climatic conditions than they are used to. By creating an operational context, a deployment is simulated. The program includes lessons from the Aruban military (ARUMIL), sports, thrilling activities, moments of reflection and a 24-hour exercise with the support of the Marine Corps of Marine Barracks Savaneta.



Social day

On Saturday May 14, the program will conclude with a social day in Aruba. The cadets then roll up their sleeves to help with maintenance and practicalities at Ambiente Feliz, a family replacement home for the mentally handicapped, and Sgt. Pepper Friends Foundation, an animal shelter in Aruba. Community activities are conducted several times a year by the cadets to contribute to local organizations and charities.

trained to become officers every year at the Royal Military Academy (KMA) in

Breda. At the KMA, a short officer training, military science training or specialist training can be followed. The Royal Military Academy trains officers for the Royal Netherlands Army, the Royal Netherlands Air Force and the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee.

In organizing this exercise, the KMA is supported by the Defense Leadership Expertise Center (ECLD) and the Faculty of Military Sciences (FMW). These institutes are also parts of the Netherlands Defense Hundreds of cadets are Academy (NLDA). There is also cooperation with the ARUMIL and the Royal Netherlands Navy.

from the face of the earth. It is a shame that we didn't learn, we didn't get the Unfortunately, message. this is not the only one. Indigenous nations from both North and South America, Rwanda, Sarajevo, makes the wish, the prayer of a "Never Again" is hard to believe in, even now, men, women and children are slaughtered and are forced to leave a war driven Ukraine.

As the service concluded, six memorial candles were lit. Each candle representing one million jews.

The first candle was lit by Rabbi Baruch Zeilicovich as Spiritual Leader and representing the lost souls of the Holocaust. The second candle was lit by the President of Parliament of Aruba, Mr. Vrolijk as the highest-ranking dignitary of Aruba to develop and safeguard educational programs to help prevent future Genocides.

The third candle was lit by Honorary Consul of Israel in Aruba, Mrs. Martha Lichtenstein, representing the promise kept after the Second World War: The Land of Israel.

The fourth candle was lit by the Dutch Representative

to Aruba, Mr. Abrahams, representing the "Righteous among nations" who were the people that chose to help rescue Jews with great harm to themselves. The sixth candle was lit by Mrs. Raquel van der Weide, member of the Congregation, representing the foundation of Jewish life in Aruba.

And the last candle was lit by Nathanael Croes, youngest member of the Congregation who represents the future and continuity of Jewish life in Aruba.

The evening concluded with the documentary GENOCIDE, a documentary of 1982 narrated by Orson Welles and Elizabeth Taylor that features footage and interviews with survivors from various interment camps. The documentary is a celebration of courage and hope as well as harrowing glimpse into the social and political climate that eventually led to the Holocaust.

As we face a new form of antisemitism under the custom of anti-Zionism and even Holocaust deniers. One thing is certain: Whoever denies the Holocaust is killing the victims again.









Article by Etnia Nativa



Episode CLII - 152

Arashi site

Etnia Nativa's facilitate cultural awareness, education and safeguards our heritage by guiding inspiering our visitor readers towards an island guardian state of mind.

Through this weekly column, by sharing the most interesting and revealing stories, closer to the Aruba we would want you to experience. Aruba is a tiny destination, a fragile ecosystem with thousands of years of history. Discover that what will enlighten and spice up your stay over. Aid your curios, feel an Aruban native.

When we talk about getting to know our home as a tourist destination, we know the impact this has on you as a visitors, its great natural beauty and its stunning white sand beaches.

During this proses of discovering the islands landscapes and topography you will probably reach Arashi, today a public beach area that offers a perfect and relaxing coast line with a spectacular sunset, located in the extreme North-West part of island in the district of Noord, near Malmok, the California lighthouse and Qudarebe point. Arashi was long ago part of an archaic sea farers hunters and gatherers settlement.

These Paleolithic nomadic people navigated the oceans by observing the stars for orientation in order to reach or return to specific areas. They were excellent seafarers knowing exactly how to come back wherever and whenever it was necessary to collect supplies and gather resources during their seasonal marine ventures.

Going back to the times of the Paleolithic period we must imagine that the island was covered over 75% with various types of vegetation. There was abundance in seafood including different species of sea turtles, crustaceans and shellfish. Game scattered throughout the island, were numbers of rabbits, iguanas and wild pigeons maybe even a subspecies of island deer.

Historical evidence reveals that these Paleolithic no-



madic tribes reached our island thousands of years before the coming of the agro ceramist groups from out the Amazon and Orinoco region.

In relation to the Toponym "Arashi" we hypothesize that it is likely that this name refers to the word ara or huara which is directly related to: fish or fishing, as the word Warashi, stands for a Bonefish, Waranawa "salted fish" Warawaxique and Waraxique referring to fisherman's woman. There is a great possibility that the words mentioned above were extracted from the language of the late Caquetio of the Arawakan language family, tribe who recognized the value of this site since them continuing to exploit Arashi on the same way.

The island still have many places that has an ancient Native American Toponym

This traditional exploitation of Arashi continues till a few years ago by Aruban of native descend, just like their forefathers.

Arashi today has been transformed in one of the favorite beaches for local families, who in addition to sunbathing and relaxing, can enjoy swimming in gentle currents, resulting in a perfect place to practice snorkeling, just as our little entrepreneur in marine archaeology in the picture who shows us his ceramic discovery. Arashi still has traces of shell maidens and ceramic shreds that once were part of a cooking pots, water jars, urn or a buren, which is a ceramic hot plate to make corn tortillas we call "pan batí".



If you love Aruba its origins and its cultural heritage, be part of the exclusive visitors of Etnia Nativa: a cozy museum/ home an private residential houses collections of native art, archaeological artifacts and historic furniture, while the facilities themselves are the result of the transformation of recycled materials. Meet Anthony Croes, our columnist at his home! Book your visit Whatsapp + 297 592 2702- or mail: etnianativa03@ gmail.com



Millennial Money: A loved one owes you money. Now what?

By LAUREN SCHWAHN of NerdWallet

Your sibling asked you to cover their rent for a couple of months while they were between jobs. Or maybe you loaned a friend a few hundred bucks for a car repair they couldn't afford.

You'd do anything to help those you love. And you did. But what should you do when they don't pay you back? Consider these options.

GENTLY APPROACH THE SUBJECT

Asking a friend or family member for money back may feel uncomfortable. But sometimes a simple reminder is all it takes to jumpstart debt repayment.

Before reaching out, think back to the discussions you had when you offered the money: Did you make it clear that this was a loan, not a gift? Did you confirm payment terms and a deadline? Did you get the details in writing?

Framing the conversation around facts rather than your feelings, or unspoken opinions, can prevent confusion. No matter the context, bring up the issue calmly (and privately) and avoid making assumptions. Using harsh or accusatory language can not only strain the relationship, but it can also make your loved one less likely to pay up.

"What we have to do is create space for that individual to come out of a shame mindset and perspective, and become less avoidant to engage in a healthy conversation," says Michael Thomas Jr., an accredited financial counselor who teaches in the University of Georgia's financial planning program.

Acknowledge what's happening in your loved one's life and be upfront about your own situation. Then, you can discuss how to move forward. "I think the best approach is just to come at it with a lot of empathy and understanding that you're both in it together," says Thomas Nitzsche, director of media and brand at Money Management International, a nonprofit financial counsel-



In this June 15, 2018, file photo, cash is fanned out from a wallet in North Andover, Mass.

Associated Press

ing and education service. MAKE OR REVISE A PAYMENT PLAN

Ideally, before lending them money, you'd have made a loan agreement outlining how much the borrower owes, how they'll pay, when payment is due and what to do if they can't pay. If not, or if the person can't meet the original terms, hash out a new plan. Consider extending their deadline or allowing them to make smaller payments. Thomas says setting up automated payments through a peer-to-peer platform can make it easier to get repaid over time.

A traditional payment plan isn't the only option. Perhaps your friend or relative could chip away at the balance by periodically covering one of your bills, Nitzsche says, or paying for a mod

If your loved one is struggling to come up with cash, perhaps they can

repay you with service. "Suppose the lender needs a family room painted or new faucets installed. A borrower with those skills might be happy to work off the debt," attorney Cara O'Neill, a legal editor at Nolo, a self-help legal website, said in an email.

FORGIVE THE DEBT

Working out an arrangement can be stressful, especially if your loved one doesn't come through. Waiving the debt could be the best move for your peace of mind and relationship. However, you might reconsider giving this person, or anyone, money again unless you're prepared to lose the amount. Think carefully about how forgiveness would impact you.

Thomas suggests asking yourself: "If I do not get this money back, it's not just how will I feel, but how will this affect any of my financial goals or anything that

repay you with service. I have planned to do with "Suppose the lender needs those resources?"

TAKE LEGAL ACTION, AS A LAST RESORT

Thomas doesn't advocate suing friends or family in most cases. But that path might be worth exploring "if there are large sums of money on the table and there is an individual who you have reason to believe has the capacity to pay," Thomas says.

It's important to have evidence on your side, too. You'll have an easier time proving the case if you have a written contract, O'Neill said. If you think you've got a chance, there are a couple of ways to proceed.

"The quickest and cheapest way to get a money judgment is through the small (claims) court system," O'Neill said. "The judge resolves small court cases in one court appearance, and the filing fee and service of process fees usually

cost less than \$200."

If the loan amount exceeds the small claims limit generally \$5,000 to \$10,000, depending on the state — the case will take significantly longer and be more expensive, O'Neill said. "The filing fees will be more and the lender might need to retain counsel because the traditional court system is more challenging to navigate without an attorney." Even if you get a judgment in your favor, that doesn't mean you'll get your money back, Nitzsche says, "particularly if the person who had the judgment against them is on certain types of protected income, like disability or Social Security. That creates an extra wrinkle because you can't get a garnishment against wages."

If you go this route, prepare to burn bridges. Will it be worth it if you get your money back? Will it be worth it if you don't?



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A pediatrician examines a newborn baby in her clinic in Chicago on Tuesday, Aug. 13, 2019. **Associated Press**

U.S. pediatricians' group moves to abandon race-based guidance

By LINDSEY TANNER **AP Medical Writer**

years, pediatricians have followed flawed guidelines linking race to risks for urinary infections and newborn jaundice. In a new policy announced Monday, the American Academy of Pediatrics said it is putting all its guidance under the microscope to eliminate "race-based" medicine and resulting health disparities.

A re-examination of AAP treatment recommendations that began before George Floyd's 2020 death and intensified after it has doctors concerned that Black youngsters have been undertreated and overlooked, said Dr. Joseph Wright, lead author of the new policy and chief health equity officer at the University of Maryland's medical system.

The influential academy has begun purging outdated advice. It is committing to scrutinizing its "entire catalog," including guidelines, educational materials, textbooks and newsletter articles, Wright said.

"We are really being much certain races have higher more rigorous about the and lower risks — is planned ways in which we assess risk for disease and health outcomes," Wright said. "We do have to hold ourselves accountable in that way. It's going to require a heavy lift."

Dr. Brittani James, a family medicine doctor and

medical director for a Chicago health center, said the academy is making a pivotal move.

"What makes this so monumental is the fact that this is a medical institution and it's not just words. They're acting," James said.

In recent years, other major doctor groups including the American Medical Association have made similar pledges.

They are spurred in part by civil rights and social justice movements, but also by science showing the strong roles that social conditions, genetics and other biological factors play in determining health.

Last year, the academy retired a guideline calculation based on the unproven idea that Black children faced lower risks than white kids for urinary infections.

A review had shown that the strongest risk factors were prior urinary infections and fevers lasting more than 48 hours, not race, Wright said.

A revision to its newborn jaundice guidance which currently suggests Dr. Nia Heard-Garris, head holes."

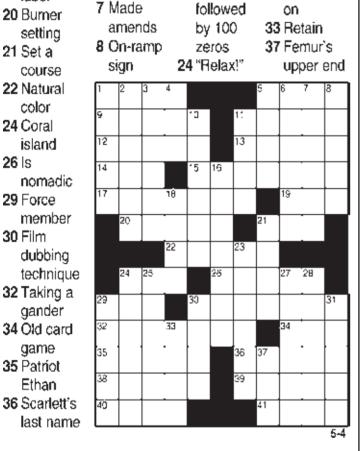
of an academy group on minority health and equity and a pediatrician at Chicago's Lurie Children's Hospital, noted that the new policy includes a brief history "of how some of our frequently used clinical aids have come to be - via pseudoscience and racism."

Whatever the intent, these aids have harmed patients, she said.

"This violates our oath as physicians — to do no harm — and as such should not be used," Heard-Garris said. Dr. Valencia Walker, a specialist in newborn care and health equity at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, called the new policy "a critical step" toward reducing racial health disparities.

The academy is urging other medical institutions and specialty groups to take a similar approach in working to eliminate racism in medicine.

"We can't just plug up one leak in a pipe full of holes and expect it to be remedied," said Heard-Garris. "This statement shines a light for pediatricians and other healthcare providfor this summer, Wright said. ers to find and patch those



AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three Us, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

5-4 CRYPTOQUOTE

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VOY MJQZVO DY HUVO XJQ.) Yesterday's Cryptoquote: BEHIND EVERY GREAT MAN IS A WOMAN ROLLING HER EYES. — JIM CARREY





A juvenile California condor flies from a shelf to a branch in the condor reintroduction pen of the Redwood National Park near Orick, Calif., on Tuesday, April 12, 2022.

Associated Press

Condors soar again over Northern California coastal redwoods

REDWOOD NATIONAL PARK, Calif. (AP) — The endangered California condor returned to soar the skies over the state's far northern coast redwood forests on Tuesday for the first time in more than a century.

Two captive-bred birds were released from a pen in Redwood National Park, about an hour's drive south of the Oregon border, under a project aimed at restoring the giant vultures to their historic habitat in the Pacific Northwest.

The two male condors were moved into staging area at late morning and a remotely controlled gate was opened. After a few minutes of warily eyeing the opening, the birds stepped one by one through the opening, spread their giant wings and took off.

"They just jumped up and took flight off into the distance," Tiana Williams-Claussen, wildlife director for the region's Yurok tribe, said in a webcast.

Condors were last spotted in the park area around 1892, authorities said. The California condor is the largest native North American bird, with a wingspan of nearly 10 feet (3 meters). The scavenger was once widespread but had virtually disappeared by the 1970s because of poaching, lead poisoning from eating animals shot by hunters and destruction of its habitat.

The birds can live for 60 years and fly vast distances in search of carrion, so their range could extend into

several states.

Federal and local fish and wildlife agencies are involved in the restoration project headed by the Yurok tribe, which traditionally has considered the California condor a sacred animal and has been working for years to return the species to the tribe's ancestral territory.

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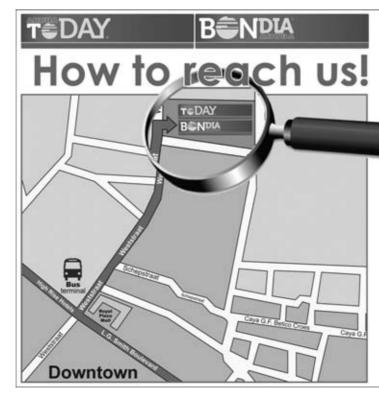
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'Doctor Strange 2' gets weirder, scarier, messier

By LINDSEY BAHR **AP Film Writer**

Once a superhero franchise goes multiverse, it's hard to go back.

No work of fiction ever needs permission to break the rules or push the boundaries of traditional storytelling, but the multiverse, at least as it's been served up in recent Marvel movies, practically demands it. And for the moment that means a lot of cameo opportunities. "Spider-Man: No Way Home "opened the door to the concept, to mostly charming results, but now Benedict Cumberbatch's master of the mystic arts is flying through the interdimensional portal with the concept in "Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness."

This film is technically the sequel to "Doctor Strange," a movie that came out six years ago. But so much has happened in Marvel land that involves Stephen Strange and his goatee — "Infinity War," "Endgame" and, yes, the most recent "Spider-Man" — that where it falls in the "Doctor Strange" standalone film continuity is entirely beside the point. One could not simply watch "Doctor Strange" and then "Doctor Strange 2" and expect it to make sense.



This image released by Marvel Studios shows Benedict Cumberbatch as Dr. Stephen Strange in a scene from "Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness."

Associated Press

Not only that, understanding, or at least being invested in "Doctor Strange 2," also requires some passing knowledge of "WandaVision," the nine-episode Disney+ series that runs almost six hours total. This is not a surprise or a burden to Marvel fans, but it does seem like quite a lot to ask of the average moviegoer (though perhaps at this point they're one and the same).

So it's especially interesting that Sam Raimi agreed to jump into this messy corporate multiverse at this point. His "Spider-Man" movies are still among the top of the crop of modern superhero franchises, after all. Raimi was able to put his own stamp on this endeavor, including but not limited to a Bruce Camp-

bell cameo. There are horror elements, too, some so intense that families might think twice before bringing everyone to the multiplex, some interesting visuals not entirely dissimilar to the city-bending of "Inception" and some humor. But Raimi doesn't take "Doctor Strange" to an entirely new tonal place, like, say Taika Waititi did with Thor. He mostly sticks to the framework established by Scott Derrickson.

The main issue is that it's a bit of a kitchen sink movie centered on an entirely and underdeveloped character, America Chavez (Xochitl Gomez), a teen who has the power to travel the multiverse but doesn't quite know how to control it. She's being hunted by someone who wants her powers and Strange decides to help, possibly out of genuine altruism and possibly because it was a good excuse to literally jump off a balcony to get out of his old flame Christine's (Rachel McAdams) wedding early.

Unfortunately, he asks the wrong Avenger for help: Elizbeth Olsen's Wanda Maximoff is the one after the power to go multiverse jumping and has been dabbling in some dark arts to make it happen. She's motivated by the idea that she has children out there in an idyllic suburban multiverse in which she wears yoga pants and loose cotton tops and tucks her boys in at night after ice cream and movies. Soon she and Strange are having a standoff in midair.

The script is inventive in the way it plays around with a jumble of big sci-fi concepts, which makes sense considering screenwriter Michael Waldron is a veteran of "Rick & Morty." But it also underwhelms when it comes to the mishmash structure and the women. Olsen still sells Wanda's pain like the best of them, even though she's been reduced to a stereotype of female hysteria. Christine is merely there to make Strange realize things about himself. And America, well, she never really earns our emotional investment.

After "Infinity War" and "Endgame," "Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness" feels a little bit like wheel spinning. Cumberbatch has fun with his character, but his limitless ego seems to have been a little muted here as he grapples with his own happiness. And that invites more questions, like do we ultimately care about whether or not Doctor Strange is happy? Does he? Could everyone just use some post blip therapy instead of these interdimensional bottle episodes? Perhaps the Marvel universe is finally starting to feel like a long running comic book series. Or maybe Phase 4 just hasn't kicked into gear just yet.



Bill Murray speaks at the Governors Awards on Friday, March 25, 2022, at the Dolby Ballroom in Los Angeles. Bill Murray speaks at the Governors Awards on Friday, March 25, 2022, at the Dolby Ballroom in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

By PHILIP MARCELO **Associated Press**

Bill Murray on Saturday acknowledged that his behavior on set led to a complaint from a woman and the suspension of filming on his latest movie.

The actor and comedian, in his first comments about the shutdown of "Being Mortal," described the in-

Bill Murray says his behavior led to complaint, film's pause

cident as a "difference of opinion" but declined to provide specifics on what transpired, or who it involved.

"I did something I thought was funny and it wasn't taken that way," he told CNBC during an interview at the annual shareholders meeting for Berkshire Hathaway. "The movie studio wanted to do the right working together or makthing so they wanted to ing a movie as well." check it all out, investigate The 71-year-old "Ghostit and so they stopped the busters" production."

Murray said he and the unnamed woman are talkother." He didn't say when or if production would resume and whether he'd continue to take part in the film. "We're both professionals," Murray said of the woman. "We like each other's work. We like each other I think and if you can't really get along and trust each other, there's no point in going further

"Cadand gested the changing nature of what's considered ing it through and "trying appropriate humor was to make peace with each a factor. "It's been quite ing the ongoing inquiry.

an education for me," he said. "The world is different than it was when I was a little kid. What I always thought was funny as a little kid isn't necessarily the same as what's funny now. Things change and the times change so it's important for me to figure it out." Murray added: "I think it's a sad dog that can't learn anymore. I don't want to be that sad dog and I have no intention of it."

dyshack" comedian sug- Searchlight Pictures has confirmed production was suspended but has so far declined to elaborate, cit-



WNBA to honor Brittney Griner with league-wide floor decals

By DOUG FEINBERG **AP Basketball Writer**

The WNBA will honor Phoenix star Brittney Griner with a floor decal and allow the Mercury to pay her without it counting against the team's salary cap, the league announced Tuesday.

The All-Star center remains in Russia after beina detained following her arrival at a Moscow airport on Feb. 17. Russian authorities said a search of her luggage revealed vape cartridges that allegedly contained oil derived from cannabis, which could carry a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison. She has a hearing set for May 19.

The Biden administration determined that Griner is being wrongfully detained in Russia, meaning the United States will more aggressively work to secure her release even as the legal case against her plays out, the State Department said Tuesday.

"We just want her home. I'm glad that they are trying to do something," said New York Liberty coach Sandy Brondello, who previously coached Griner in Phoenix. "They had that prisoner release last week that gave



Phoenix Mercury center Brittney Griner pauses on the court during the second half of a WNBA basketball game against the Seattle Storm, Sept. 3, 2019, in Phoenix.

Associated Press

me hope that BG would be one of the next ones out. I can't imagine what she's going through. Hopefully she'll be out sooner than

Brondello was happy with the league's creation of the decal.

"There's not a day I don't think about BG. I was trying to message with her family yesterday. She's in everyone's mind," she said. "She can't be forgotten. She means so much to so many

people. I coached her for a long time and she's like family. I think it's a great

The decal will feature Griner's initials as well as her No. 42. All 12 WNBA teams will have the decal on their home courts starting with the season opener Friday night. The Mercury open their season at home that night against the Las Vegas Aces.

"As we begin the 2022 season, we are keeping Brittney at the forefront of what we do through the game of basketball and in the community," WNBA Commissioner Cathy Engelbert said. "We continue to work on bringing Brittney home and are appreciative of the support the community has shown BG and her family during this extraordinarily challenging time."

The league also approved giving the Mercury both roster and salary cap relief so that they can carry a replacement player until Griner returns home. Griner will be paid her full salary of nearly \$228,000.

Engelbert announced at the WNBA draft that there would be a league-wide charity initiative spearheaded by the Mercury to support Griner's philanthropic project, called BG's Heart and Sole Shoe Drive, which helps the homeless. "In conjunction with the league, the other 11 teams, and those closest to BG, we will work to keep her top of mind as we tip the 2022 season," Mercury Executive Vice President and GM Jim Pitman said. "While we await her return, our main concern remains for her safety and well-being. Our fans will miss her impact on the court and in our community, and this gesture of including her initials on every court and our BG's Heart and Sole Shoe Drive activation in every market are for them and for her." Griner had one of her best seasons last year — she was the league's second-leading scorer and finished sixth in rebounds. She helped the Mercury reach the WNBA Finals, where they lost to the Chicago Sky.

Cards' Hopkins suspended 6 games for violating PED policy

By DAVID BRANDT **AP Sports Writer**

The Arizona Cardinals are going to have to figure out a way to score points and win games without their top receiver.

Three-time All-Pro DeAndre Hopkins has been suspended without pay for six games for violating the NFL's policy on performance-enhancing substances, the league announced Monday.

Hopkins issued a statement on social media Monday night, saying he was "confused and shocked" to learn he tested positive for a banned substance.

"I am very mindful of what I put in my body and have always taken a holistic approach, so I am working

with my team to investigate how this could've happened," the statement said. "But even as careful as I have been, clearly I wasn't careful enough. For that, I apologize to Cardinals fans, my teammates, and the entire Cardinals organization. I never want to let my team down."

It's a stunning blow for the Cardinals, who finished with an 11-6 record last season but faded down the stretch when Hopkins was out of NFL draft, acquiring Marthe lineup because of injuries. Arizona had an 8-2 record when Hopkins was in the lineup and just a 3-5 mark, including the playoffs, when he was not.

Now they'll be without the 29-year-old receiver — who

big chunk of the upcoming season.

Hopkins played in 10 games last season, catching 42 passes for 572 yards and eight touchdowns. He missed much of the last half of the season, including the team's playoff loss to the Los Angeles Rams, because of hamstring and knee injuries.

The Cardinals softened the loss of Hopkins by adding a receiver during last week's quise Brown from the Ravens for the No. 23 overall pick. Brown was a 1.000yard receiver last season and college teammates with Arizona quarterback Kyler Murray when the two were at Oklahoma.

turns 30 next month — for a Hopkins' suspension likely



Arizona Cardinals wide receiver DeAndre Hopkins looks to the sideline during a timeout in second half of an NFL football game against the Los Angeles Rams, Dec. 13, 2021, in Glendale, Ariz. **Associated Press**

means a bigger role for includes six 1,000-yard Brown, veteran A.J. Green and second-year standout Rondale Moore, along with tight end Zach Ertz, during the season's first six weeks. Hopkins has been one of the league's most productive receivers during his nine-year career, which

seasons. He played his first seven seasons with the Texans before being traded in 2020 to the Cardinals.

Hopkins is allowed to participate in the team's preseason practices and games.



Who? Fates of some NHL teams in hands of role players

By WILL GRAVES AP Sports Writer

Casey DeSmith keeps insisting the NHL playoffs are no different than any other game he's ever played in his life.

The Pittsburgh goaltender believes his job when he skates onto the ice at Madison Square Garden ice on Tuesday night when the Penguins open their firstround matchup with the New York Rangers is no different than it is at any other time of the season, at any other time of his hockey life. Stop the puck when it comes your way. Keep your team in it. Don't let one mistake morph into another. Pour everything you can into making sure you're not on the wrong side of the post-series handshake line. To DeSmith, it doesn't matter that he hasn't appeared in a postseason game in five years, when 3,608 people watched his Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins fall to the Providence Bruins in Game 5 of the first round of the 2017 AHL playoffs. It's still just hockey. Right?

"I think as soon as you start to try and make it bigger than it is, problems start to happen mentally," he said. It's a great approach — in theory. Yet when the puck drops, especially if it's your first foray into the unique crucible that the playoffs provide, it is different. At least at first blush.

"Those first 10 minutes sometimes feel like it's the fastest game you've ever played in your life," Nashville veteran defenseman Roman Josi said. "After that, you kind of settle in and you just play hockey and I think that's important in the playoffs."

DeSmith is hardly the only player improbably thrust into the spotlight as the chase for the Stanley Cup begins. Both conferences feature players with unremarkable resumes who could have an outsize impact on the outcome.

An injury to top goaltender Frederik Andersen forced Metropolitan Division champion Carolina to turn to Antti Raanta. Raanta shined in a 5-1 win over Bos-



Boston Bruins' Brad Marchand (63) can't get a wraparound past Pittsburgh Penguins goaltender Casey DeSmith during the first period of an NHL hockey game in Pittsburgh, Thursday, April 21, 2022.

Associated Press

ton on Monday night, but if he struggles at some point, rookie Pyotr Kochetkov (3-0 regular season) is the Hurricanes' next option.

Then again, maybe playoff experience is overrated.

Jordan Binnington helped St. Louis to the franchise's only championship in 2019. He started Game 1 of the Blues' series with Minnesota on the bench while Ville Husso and his career 53 starts went to work in net and made 37 saves in a 4-0 shutout over the Wild.

At least there is an established hierarchy in Pittsburgh, Carolina and St. Louis. Not so much in Washington, which has Ilya Samsonov and Vitek Vanecek against top-seeded Florida. The duo's combined career playoff wins? Zero.

"They're younger, but I believe in both of them," top-line center Evgeny Kuznetsov said. "They have pretty good games, but it's not about them. It's about us, how we're going to help them."

In Minnesota, 21-year-old

rookie forward Matt Boldy made his playoff debut on Monday playing alongside Kevin Fiala just a few months after being called up from the minors. Part of Boldy's role will be making sure linemate Kevin Fiala's scorching April carries over into the postseason.

"(Boldy's) made, obviously, great strides and progress, not only physically but mentally," coach Dean Evason said. "He's a very composed, very calm, very mature person."

Calming the inevitable jitters is something DeSmith will need to do quickly if he doesn't want Pittsburgh's 16th straight postseason appearance — the longest active streak in major North American professional sports — to turn into a potentially franchise-altering one-and-done.

All the 30-year-old career NHL backup has to do is help make sure the Penguins avoid a fourth consecutive early exit, propopen the championship window for the venerable core of Sidney Crosby, Ev-

geni Malkin and Kris Letang a little longer or at the very least keep Pittsburgh in it until injured All-Star Tristan Jarry — out since April 15 with a lower-body injury is ready to go.

Oh, and he has to potentially outplay Vezina Trophy candidate Igor Shesterkin, who limited the high-flying Penguins to four goals in four meetings during the regular season.

No pressure or anything.

The Penguins are longshots to reach the Stanley Cup Final, according to Fan-Duel Sportsbook, and were largely uninspired down the stretch despite the steady play of DeSmith, who went 8-3-3 with a 2.44 goalsagainst average after the All-Star break.

So DeSmith will do what he has had to do since signing with the ECHL's Wheeling Nailers nearly seven years ago: attempt to prove the skeptics wrong.

"If you don't have a battle mindset, I think it's hard to succeed in the playoffs just because it's a grind," he said. "It's such a battleoriented environment."

One that can sometimes turn afterthoughts, role players, or backups into folk heroes or — better yet — champions.

Matt Murray was a rookie in 2016 when he took over for an injured Marc-Andre Fleury. All Murray did was backstop the Penguins to back-to-back Stanley Cups.

It's far too early to start drawing those kinds of comparisons — particularly not for a team that is 3-13 in its last 16 postseason games — but there is a fearlessness to DeSmith's approach that could serve him well going forward.

Yes, the lights will be brighter on Tuesday night than they were at the Mohegan Sun Arena half a decade ago. The stakes will be considerably higher. The adrenaline, however, will be familiar.

"I'm grateful for some of my prior playoff experience, (in the minors) or otherwise so hopefully some of that comfortability carries over," DeSmith said.